

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal for distributing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend an event, wherein the electronic ticket information distribution store terminal receives a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of an information storage chip, transfers the request to an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus so as to instruct the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to perform distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user, receives a ticket issuing request from an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information, and writes the electronic ticket information for a plurality of electronic tickets for the event into the information storage chip, wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets are structured in a format that allows the at least one ticket to be assigned from the information storage chip to at least one other information storage chip using the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 20 (original): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein output means is provided for outputting the electronic ticket information as a paper ticket.

Claim 21-28 (canceled)

Claim 29 (currently amended): An electronic ticket management method employing an event organizer apparatus for planning an event, an electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus for distributing electronic ticket information which authenticates a right to attend the event, an information storage chip for storing the electronic ticket information, and an electronic ticket platform center for managing the distribution of the electronic ticket information, the electronic ticket management method comprising the steps of:

forming event information unique to each of the events and registering the event information in the electronic ticket platform center by the event organizer apparatus;

receiving a request to distribute the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for the event from a user of the information storage chip, performing distribution authentication processing for determining whether the electronic ticket information is to be distributed to the user, and registering an authentication result in the electronic ticket platform center as ticket issuing information by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus; and

forming an electronic ticket information master based on the event information registered by the event organizer apparatus, relating the ticket issuing information registered by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus to the electronic ticket information master, and performing ticket issuing processing for writing the electronic ticket information concerning a plurality of electronic tickets for attending the event into the information storage chip based on the ticket issuing information by the electronic ticket platform center, wherein at least one of the plurality of electronic tickets are structured in a format that allows the at least one ticket to be assigned from the information storage chip to at least one other information storage chip using the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 30 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein the event organizer apparatus selects the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus for handling the electronic ticket information concerning the event.

Claim 31 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein the information storage chip is distributed as a membership card according to a membership registration via the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus.

Claim 32 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the distribution authentication processing performed by the electronic ticket distribution authentication apparatus and the ticket issuing processing performed by the electronic ticket platform center.

Claim 33 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user is sent and the ticket issuing processing is performed by the electronic ticket platform center via a network.

Claim 34 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein an electronic ticket information distribution store terminal is provided, and the request to distribute the electronic ticket information from the user is sent and the ticket issuing processing is performed by the electronic ticket platform center via the electronic ticket information distribution store terminal.

Claim 35 (original): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein authentication processing by the electronic ticket platform center is required when the electronic ticket information is written into the information storage chip.

Claim 36 (currently amended): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus for controlling a reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip of a customer in which a plurality of items of the electronic ticket information are stored, the electronic ticket information being used for authenticating a right to attend an event in correspondence with event information unique to each event, wherein the information storage chip of an assignor sends an assignment request to the electronic ticket assignment apparatus by specifying ID information of the information storage chip of an assignee and the electronic ticket

information to be assigned, and the electronic ticket assignment apparatus performs an assignment operation by writing the electronic ticket information to be assigned into the information storage chip of the assignee in response to the assignment request and by deleting the assigned electronic ticket information from the information storage chip of the assignor.

Claim 37 (original): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus includes an electronic ticket platform center which authenticates a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information, and a reader/writer for reading and writing the electronic ticket information from and into the information storage chip; and

wherein the assignment request and the assignment operation are performed via a network.

Claim 38 (original): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus comprises an information storage chip reader/writer having a right to authenticate a writing/deleting operation of the electronic ticket information.

Claim 39 (original): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein a predetermined time period is provided between the assignment request and the assignment operation.

Claim 40 (previously presented): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36 wherein the electronic ticket assignment apparatus further includes at least one memory device storing executable instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause the electronic ticket assignment apparatus to perform at least one reading/writing operation of electronic ticket information from and into an information storage chip.

Claim 41-60 (canceled)

Claim 61 (previously presented): An electronic ticket information distribution store terminal according to claim 19, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 62 (previously presented): An electronic ticket management method according to claim 29, wherein the plurality of electronic tickets written to the storage chip correspond to a plurality of consecutive seats for the same event.

Claim 63 (previously presented): An electronic ticket assignment apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the assignor is a first user having an information storage chip and the assignee is a second user having an information storage chip, and the assignment of electronic ticket information is from the first user to the second user.